



## ENDLESS CORRUPTION IN ARAVIND ADIGA'S *THE WHITE TIGER*

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### ABSTRACT

*Aravind Adiga was born in India in 1974, and educated in India and Australia. His debut novel The White Tiger was published in 2008 and won the man Booker prize award for fiction in the same year. Adiga was fourth one to achieve this Award. In this novel, Adiga deliberately portrays how the wealthy people of light India oppress the poor people of dark India and try to reveal the unspoken words of the people who are living in the darkness. He also examines the class struggle of the Indian people in the globalized world. The novel explores various issues on the basis of caste, culture, religion, education, occupation and economy and depicts the struggling of the Indian society for its socio-economic equality. The present paper makes an attempt to analyze how the corruption corrupts the minds of the common people that leads the society to indulge in criminal offenses.*

**Key Words:** *globalized, socio-economic, corruption.*

### ENDLESS CORRUPTION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Corruption in India is a major issue that hinders the growth of our country. It affects the Indian financial and economic system. In 2015, India is ranked as 76th out of 175 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. Corruption is Prevailing everywhere, from the higher officials to the peons. Further Corruption has become something respectable in India, because respectable people are involved in it. The Corruption that is blustering in India is a dominant theme in many novels. It is the primary reason for inequality in the society and community and hinders the growth and development of the nation in all possible aspects.

In his novel "The White Tiger" Aravind Adiga, highlighting the corruption which is plaguing in every nook and corner of India and has been crippling the country. Balram Halwai, the protagonist of this novel writes a series of letter to the premier of china Wen Jibabo



about his success as a successful entrepreneur, introducing himself as The White Tiger. The entire novel is narrated through a collection of these letters. Throughout his narrative, the writer constantly exposes his voice through Balram about each and every aspects of government that are thoroughly corrupted. In this novel, Balram escapes from the darkness of life and enter into the corrupt system of life to improve his status in this society.

*"The tale of how i was corrupted from a sweet, innocent village fool into a citified fellow full of debauchery, depravity, and wickedness." (TWT 197)*

Balram was born in the village of Laxmangarh and raised in a large, poor family from the Halwai Caste, a Caste that indicates Sweet - Makers. Balram was initially called as "Munna", meaning "boy". Later his Schoolteacher named him as Balram. Once in a school inspection, Balram proved his talent by answering all the questions asked by the school inspector and was praised by him as "White Tiger". The Village Where Balram lives was under the control of four landlords namely, the Buffalo, the stork, the Wild Boar and the Raven, who stole most of the money from every family and make them starve to Death.

Balram's mind begin to corrupt when he was a school boy. The Schoolteacher of Balram had not been received salary for nearly six months. So the schoolteacher corrupted the educational system by taught nothing to the students until the paycheck arrived. He also stolen the food and uniform, which government hired free for the students and selling it in the neighbouring villages to earn profit. The corrupted nature of every schoolteacher will corrupt the mind of the pupils, so as it in the case of Balram.

Balram's father was a Rickshaw Puller. He was suffered from Tuberculosis and carried out to the hospital, where no doctors were present. A ward boy was there. When Balram bribed him ten Rupees he said that the doctor might come in the evening. As Balram asks a person who is beside him "Why isn't a doctor here uncle?". The Man replied that the doctor who wants the government job has to bribe a large sum of money to some higher officials to get that job and after getting that job the government medical superintendent bribed from the doctors one third of the salary and made a tick on the ledger. Thus the corrupted system in the hospitals and the absence of doctors let his father to die.

Balram moved to the city of Dhanbad to work and decided to become a chauffeur. He was hired by the stork for his two sons namely Ashok and Mukesh. Balram further exposed the corrupt nature of politics in the Darkness. A Politician known as the Great Socialist controlled the Darkness through election in a deceptive way. The stork family

involved in the business dealing in the coal industry and regularly bribed him to ensure their success. Because of these political manipulation, Ashok and his wife Pinky Madam decided to go to Delhi for three months. Balram was the driver who accompanied with them. One day, Pinky Madam was drunk and accidentally hit a child by her car and the child was dead. The next morning, Mukesh arrived there and tell that Balram would confess to the crime on Pinky Madam's behalf. He was horrified by this. Then the stork arrived and mentioned that they got out of the issue by bribing a particular sum of money to the police. "It's amazing. The moment you show cash, everyone knows your language" (TWT 300)

By that time, Balram's political consciousness grew more intense and his anger towards the upper class was at its peak. On the meanwhile Ashok and Pinky Madam got divorced. Ashok was depressed and reconciled his relationship with his ex-lover Ms.Uma. Then on behalf of his family, he collects large sum of money in a red bag and used it to bribe the government ministers. The Corruption in the Indian Capital and The Murder Weekly Corrupted Balram. He observed the politicians who received bribe from Mr.Ashok to exempt from the taxes of coal mines. Whenever he found Mr.Ashok making corruption and not paying taxes, he become furious and it leaded him to do criminal affairs. Balram's desire for earning money has grew more day by day. Balram thought that money is the only thing that could make him survive in this world. Ashok was totally depressed in his way of living his life and he exposes his thoughts to Balram.The inner thoughts which are running over in Balram's mind towards Ashok's statement makes us to know his desire for money.

*"Sometimes I wonder, Balram. I wonder what's the point of living. I really wonder..." "The point of living? My heart pounded. The point of your living is that if you die who's going to pay me three and a half thousand rupees a month?." (TWT 186)*

One day, Balram with his relative boy Dharam went to the Zoo, Where he observed a white tiger in a cage. Observing that he wants to make himself free from the Rooster Coop. Balram made a weapon from a broken Whiskey Bottle and rammed it into Ashok's Skull and stabbed him in the neck. He stole the Red Bag filled with 700,000 rupees and escape with Dharam to Bangalore. "I've made it! I've broken out of the coop!" I've given myself away" (TWT 320)

In Bangalore, Balram make himself as a successful entrepreneur. He provided Taxi Services for call center workers. Balram was able to gain influence by bribing the police. He is now have the capability to cover up a fatal accident through his connections with the higher authorities. Balram makes sure, how money predominates all the things in this world. Humanity fails, where money proceeds. Adiga in this novel explicit even the



meticulous thing with humour and irony , which keeps the reader to move further without boredom.

### **Conclusion**

Thus , this novel portrays the thoughtless and merciless condition of India in which oppressed people like Balram suffers under the rich. Here , the author shows how the Indian society is being corrupted. He also instructs the Indian people by telling the truth , that criminals are born and emerged out due to corruption, inequality and injustice in the society. But the Indian people must be self - conscious and never allowed themselves to indulge in wrong and illegal activities. It is the responsibility of each and every citizen that they should try their level best not to indulge themselves in corrupted activities , which may give rise to so many Balrams that may cause a horrible impacts in our society.

### **WORKS CITED**

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